



COI QUERY

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All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Afghanistan

Major legislative, security-related, and humanitarian developments

1. Recognition status and territorial control

The *de facto* administration of Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), continues not to be recognised by any country in the world as of 30 October 2022.¹

The Foundation for Defense and Democracies' (FDD) Long War Journal assessed 7 districts as contested on 29 August 2022: Warsaj (Takhar Province), Khost wa Firing and Andarab (Baghlan Province), Shutul, Darah, Unabah, and Khinj (Panjshir Province), although cautioning that such assessments are 'extremely difficult' since the collapse of the former government.² Afghanistan expert Barnett R. Rubin, however, described the Taliban as being in control of all of Afghanistan's territory and population in an article from 20 October 2022.³

¹ TOLONews, 15 Months After Takeover, Islamic Emirate Not Recognized by World, 30 October 2022, [url](#)

² FDD's LWJ, One year after U.S. withdrawal, resistance to Taliban rule grows, 29 August 2022, [url](#)

³ Rubin, B. R., Afghanistan Under the Taliban: Findings on the Current Situation, Stimson, 20 October 2022, [url](#)

2. Legislative changes

On 21 July 2022, the Taliban supreme leader issued a decree banning defamation and unproven criticism of [*de facto*] government officials.⁴ The decree added to previous restrictions on media content issued during the months following the Taliban takeover in 2021.⁵

Other directives issued by the de facto authorities, including provincial decisions

Ahead of the university entrance exams in October 2022, the Taliban announced that women will only be able to choose certain academic fields for public university studies. A spokesman for the Taliban Ministry of Higher Education stated that subjects not necessary for women will not be introduced, but he did not specify the concerned fields.⁶ According to BBC News, women may take courses in medicine, nursing, teaching, and Islamic studies in all provinces, while veterinary science, engineering, economics and agriculture appear not to be options of choice.⁷ Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) also reported that women may not apply for ‘many courses’, including engineering, economics, and also journalism.⁸ BBC News described opportunities to study journalism for women although they were ‘extremely limited’.⁹

On provincial level, the Taliban in Nimruz Province ordered coffee shops to close, and wedding halls to stop playing music at wedding parties.¹⁰ In Mazar-e Sharif shopkeepers were ordered not to sell to women without *hijab*.¹¹

One local media report claimed that the Taliban in Badakhshan had announced that wearing *burqa* or *niqab* is compulsory for women.¹² In a previous national decree, women have been instructed to cover their faces¹³, but Taliban officials stated that the decrees were not compulsory.¹⁴ Another local media report stated that shopkeepers in Mazar-e Sharif had been ordered to close their shops during prayers and attend them.¹⁵ Moreover, a media report claimed that the Taliban in Kandahar had ordered male teachers and high-school students to pledge in writing that they will conform with the Taliban’s interpretation of *sharia*, including

⁴ TOLONews, Islamic Emirate Leader Bans ‘Unproven Allegations’ Against Members, 22 July 2022, [url](#); Zabihullah [Twitter], posted on: 21 July 2022, [url](#)

⁵ CIVICUS, A Year of Taliban Rule Leaves Civic Space Decimated in Afghanistan, 8 September 2022, [url](#); RFE/RL/Gandhara, ‘Open Fear’: Taliban Cracks Down On Afghan Media By Decree, 27 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶ TOLONews TV, Afghan Taliban say women allowed to study ‘useful’ subjects, 3 October 2022, [url](#); Hasht-e Subh, Taliban: Girls Not Allowed to Choose Any other Field of Study, Except Teaching and Midwifery, 5 October 2022, [url](#)

⁷ BBC News, Afghanistan: Taliban ban women from many university subjects, 15 October 2022, [url](#)

⁸ RFE/RL/Gandhara, ‘Heartbroken And Disillusioned’: Taliban Bans Afghan Women From Many University Courses, 20 October 2022, [url](#)

⁹ BBC News, Afghanistan: Taliban ban women from many university subjects, 15 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰ TOLONews, Nimroz Vice and Virtue Dept Orders that Coffee Shops Be Closed, 7 September 2022, [url](#); ANI, Afghanistan: Taliban officials in Nimroz orders coffee shop to close down, 8 September 2022, [url](#)

¹¹ Khaama Press, Taliban Orders Shops to Refuse Selling Things to Women without Hijab, 30 August 2022, [url](#); Rukshana Media, Taliban morality police close shops over improper hijabs, 23 October 2022, [url](#)

¹² Etilaatroz, امر به معروف طالبان در بدخشان: زنان برقع بپوشند یا نقاب بزنند [The Taliban Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Badakhshan: women should wear a *burqa* or a *niqab*], 23 August 2022, [url](#)

¹³ AP, Afghanistan's Taliban order women to cover up head to toe, 8 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴ UNAMA, Human Rights in Afghanistan, 15 August 2021–15 June 2022, July 2022, [url](#), p. 23

¹⁵ Khaama Press, Taliban Orders Shops to Refuse Selling Things to Women without Hijab, 30 August 2022, [url](#)



traditional Afghan dress codes for men and growing a beard. Failure to sign or adhere to the pledge could lead to students and teachers being dismissed.¹⁶ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Secondary education for girls

Private secondary schools were reportedly allowed to offer education for girls in all provinces.¹⁷ However, many schools closed due to lack of resources stemming from families affected by poverty and unemployment, and their resultant inability to pay school fees.¹⁸ Public secondary schools reportedly remained closed in most provinces.¹⁹ No statistics on enrolment rates were reported to be available.²⁰ In September 2022, five secondary schools in Paktia Province were reopened for a few days.²¹ The schools were located in Gardez and Samkani districts, and their reopening was based on a decision of local stakeholders.²² According to RFE/RL the Taliban Ministry of Education had not approved the decision, hence it was revoked.²³

According to RFE/RL, the Taliban in Kandahar Province conducted inspections of girls' primary schools and expelled hundreds of secondary education aged girls but who attended primary level education.²⁴ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

3. Security situation

Targeted killings of former government affiliates

Although the Taliban issued an amnesty after their takeover on 15 August 2021, targeted killings of former government affiliates and its security forces have taken place.²⁵ In his first report to the Human Right Council on 6 September 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan stated that the issued amnesty had 'serious flaws' in

¹⁶ RFE/RL/Gandhara, Taliban Orders Male Teachers, Students To Sign Pledge To Observe Shari'a Law, 13 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷ Rubin, B. R., Afghanistan Under the Taliban: Findings on the Current Situation, Stimson, 20 October 2022, [url](#); Guardian (The), 'She asked me, will they kill you if they discover you?': Afghan girls defy education ban at secret schools, 13 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁸ Salaam Times, Poverty, restrictions on girls shutter 400 Afghan private schools, 17 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹ Rubin, B. R., Afghanistan Under the Taliban: Findings on the Current Situation, Stimson, 20 October 2022, [url](#); HRW, Fighting the Taliban's Ban on Girls' Education, 13 July 2022, [url](#)

²⁰ Rubin, B. R., Afghanistan Under the Taliban: Findings on the Current Situation, Stimson, 20 October 2022, [url](#)

²¹ TOLONews, Closing of Paktia Girls' Schools After Brief Opening Sparks Outcry, 11 September 2022, [url](#);

RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, Afghan Girls Protest Abrupt Closure of Secondary Schools in Eastern Province, 10 September 2022, [url](#)

²² TOLONews, Five Schools Reopened for Girls Above 6th Grade in Paktia, 7 September 2022, [url](#); RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, Afghan Girls Protest Abrupt Closure of Secondary Schools in Eastern Province, 10 September 2022, [url](#)

²³ RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, Afghan Girls Protest Abrupt Closure of Secondary Schools in Eastern Province, 10 September 2022, [url](#)

²⁴ RFE/RL/Gandhara, Taliban Inspects Girl's Schools, Expels Hundreds Of Pubescent Students, 6 October 2022, [url](#)

²⁵ RFE/RL/Gandhara, 'They Call Us Infidels': Former Afghan Soldiers Still Live In Hiding To Avoid Taliban Retribution, 13 July 2022, [url](#)



its implementation, and noted ongoing reports of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of former officials and members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).²⁶ Inkstick media noted geographical differences in the amnesty's implementation, but could not identify any clear patterns on why the amnesty was being respected in some areas and others not. The source named Kandahar as a province lacking efficient implementation, while Kamdesh District (Nuristan Province) served as an example of where the amnesty was respected and where former officials were part of the local councils.²⁷ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Local media reports on killings committed by Taliban members included the killing of a former commander of a militia, the Popular Uprising Forces, in Takhar Province on 13 October 2022²⁸, and a former police chief in late September 2022. The former police chief had reportedly been invited by the Taliban in Laghman Province to discuss issues unrelated to his previous position but was killed. The people in his home area Mandol District (Nuristan Province) reacted and drove out the Taliban from the district.²⁹ In another case from 12 October 2022, Taliban members in Paktika Province fired against a car carrying a former local commander and his family, causing the death of his son.³⁰ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Local media reports on targeted killings without a known perpetrator included the killing of a former director at the Ministry of Defense in Takhar Province on 22 October 2022³¹, a former commander of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Asadabad City (Kunar Province) on 16 October 2022³², and a former USAID employee in Kabul City around 13 October 2022.³³ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Furthermore, a former intelligence department employee in Samangan Province was reportedly arrested during his son's wedding on 2 October 2022. The man had returned to work after the Taliban issued their general amnesty, but was dismissed a couple of months before his arrest.³⁴ Amnesty International reported on a similar case that occurred in 12 April 2022, when a police officer of the former government was detained and later killed after

²⁶ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 55

²⁷ Inkstick, A Dispatch From A Place Where Taliban Amnesty Holds, 6 July 2022, [url](#)

²⁸ Hasht-e Subh, طالبان در تخار یک فرمانده پیشین خیزش‌های مردمی را کشتند [Taliban killed a former commander of popular uprisings in Takhar], 13 October 2022, [url](#)

²⁹ Etilaatroz, اعتراض به قتل بهرام نورستانی: بولسوالی مندول نورستان از کنترل طالبان خارج شد, 29 September 2022, [url](#); Afghanistan International, Taliban Flees Mandol Dist of Nuristan As Armed Residents Protest Local Commander's Murder, 29 September 2022, [url](#)

³⁰ Hasht-e Subh, Taliban Shelling on a Former Soldier's Car in Paktika Kills one and Injures Three Others, 13 October 2022, [url](#)

³¹ Afghanistan International, Former Senior Afghan Defense Official Killed in Takhar, 22 October 2022, [url](#)

³² Hasht-e Subh, Mohammad, Former Security Member, Killed by Taliban in Kunar, 17 October 2022, [url](#)

³³ Hasht-e Subh, افراد مسلح یک کارمند محلی پیشین امریکا را در کابل کشتند و دو کودکش را زخمی کردند [Gunmen killed a former U.S. local employee in Kabul and wounded two of his children], 13 October 2022, [url](#)

³⁴ Hasht-e Subh, بازداشت یک کارمند پیشین امنیتی در سمنگان؛ ۱۰ روز می‌شود که از او خبری نیست [Former NDS worker arrested in Samangan, for the past 10 days no one has heard about him], 12 October 2022, [url](#)



having been back in service under the Taliban for several months.³⁵ Corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Large-scale clashes

During the reference period the ongoing insurgency in Afghanistan could be divided into two factions, one led by the National Resistance Front (NRF) and other groups affiliated with the former government, and one led by the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP).³⁶ NRF and affiliated groups have been active in Panjsher Province and adjacent northern areas³⁷, while ISKP has been active in eastern provinces, and parts of the north.³⁸

Attacks and casualties claimed by the NRF have mainly been reported by the local media source Hasht-e Subh³⁹, while the Taliban frequently have denied reports of fighting in the north.⁴⁰ The lack of reliable information make claims by the Taliban and resistance groups very difficult to corroborate.⁴¹ Intense battles have been reported in Badakhshan Province in late September⁴² and in October 2022⁴³. Intense fighting also reportedly took place in Dara District in Panjsher Province in mid-September 2022.⁴⁴ Following clashes in Badakhshan and Panjsher provinces, the Taliban have made claims of killing and arresting NRF members⁴⁵ while there were other reports on the Taliban executing prisoners of war.⁴⁶ In one case, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid stated on Twitter that a major clearance operation had been carried out in Rokha, Abshar and Dara districts in Panjsher Province.⁴⁷ He further claimed that the Taliban had killed 40 and arrested more than 100 members of ‘a rebel force’. The NRF stated that the numbers were exaggerated.⁴⁸ Soon thereafter videos circulated which appeared to show the Taliban executing two groups of men from the NRF.⁴⁹ The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan expressed deep concern about the

³⁵ AI, The Rule of Taliban, A year of Violence Impunity and False Promises, 15 August 2022, [url](#), p. 36

³⁶ International Crisis Group, Afghanistan’s Security Challenges under the Taliban, 12 August 2022, [url](#), p. I;

³⁷ International Crisis Group, Afghanistan’s Security Challenges under the Taliban, 12 August 2022, [url](#), p. 11; UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 51

³⁸ International Crisis Group, Afghanistan’s Security Challenges under the Taliban, 12 August 2022, [url](#), p. I; BBC Monitoring, Analysis: The Taliban’s evolving security challenges, 15 August 2022, [url](#)

³⁹ BBC Monitoring, Analysis: The Taliban’s evolving security challenges, 15 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁰ BBC Monitoring, Afghan media highlights 13 September 2022, 13 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴¹ FDD’s LWJ, One year after U.S. withdrawal, resistance to Taliban rule grows, 29 August 2022, [url](#)

⁴² Hasht-e Subh, A Senior Taliban Commander with His 150 Loyal Fighters Join NRF in Badakhshan, 24 September 2022, [url](#); Aamaj News, دشمنان با مقاومتگران بدخشان وارد سومین روز شد [Taliban clashes with Badakhshan’s resistance enters third day], 24 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴³ Hasht-e Subh, Badakhshan’s Bloody Battles, Taliban Shot Dead 22 Prisoners, 24 October 2022, [url](#); Kabul Now, Taliban Claim Killing 38 NRF Fighters in Badakhshan, 24 October 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁴ Ariana News [YouTube], Ariana News 8pm News: 17 September 2022, 17 September 2022, [url](#); AW, Systematic and Summary: Investigating Evidence of Prisoner Executions in the Panjshir Valley in September 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁴⁵ Khaama Press, Taliban Announces Killing Nearly 40 Resistance Front Members in Northeastern Afghanistan, 24 October 2022, [url](#); Zabihullah [Twitter], posted on: 13 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁶ Hasht-e Subh, Badakhshan’s Bloody Battles, Taliban Shot Dead 22 Prisoners, 24 October 2022, [url](#); Kabul Now, Taliban Claim Killing 38 NRF Fighters in Badakhshan, 24 October 2022, [url](#); AW, Systematic and Summary: Investigating Evidence of Prisoner Executions in the Panjshir Valley in September 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁴⁷ Zabihullah [Twitter], posted on: 13 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁸ Al Jazeera, Taliban says 40 rebels killed in northern Afghanistan’s Panjshir, 14 September 2022, [url](#)

⁴⁹ RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, UN ‘Deeply Concerned Over Video Appearing To Show Taliban Executing Members Of Resistance Group, 15 September 2022, [url](#)



allegations and called for an investigation⁵⁰, while Amnesty international carried out an initial assessment confirming that the videos did show extrajudicial executions carried out by the Taliban of apparent NRF members.⁵¹ Afghan Witness (AW) later reported that they, through OSINT techniques, could link the Taliban to executions of 10 men in Dara District. In addition, AW reported on an additional 17 executions and 30 deaths allegedly taking place in Panjsher Province in September 2022.⁵²

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights Afghanistan stated on 6 September 2022 that the conflict between the Taliban and NRF had caused significant suffering and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. He especially pointed out Panjsher Province and Andarab District (Baghlan Province) from where he had received reports of civilians being subjected to arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings and torture, which sometimes appeared to be collective punishments.⁵³ Following a visit to Afghanistan in October 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur stated that communities in inter alia Panjsher Province were being ‘heavily suppressed’ and that civilians considered to be associated with the NRF were subjected to house searches, arbitrary arrests, detentions, extrajudicial killings, torture, displacement and an information blackout.⁵⁴ Media sources have also reported on the Taliban subjecting civilians in Panjsher Province to arrests⁵⁵, killings⁵⁶, torture and forced evictions⁵⁷ and on limited information flows in the area.⁵⁸

ISKP have targeted Taliban members in suicide attacks.⁵⁹ The Taliban’s efforts to restrain ISKP has coincided with a crackdown on Salafists.⁶⁰ In July 2022, Human Rights Watch released a report on extensive killings of alleged ISKP affiliates in eastern Afghanistan. The investigation suggested that only in the Darunta Canal in Nangarhar Province, over 100 bodies were dumped between August 2021 and April 2022.⁶¹ The UN Special Rapporteur also noted allegations of ANDSF forces having been targeted in Nangarhar under the pretext that they were ISKP fighters.⁶²

⁵⁰ UN Special Rapporteur Richard Bennet [Twitter], posted on: 14 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵¹ Amnesty International South Asia [Twitter], posted on: 15 September 2022, [url](#)

⁵² AW, Systematic and Summary: Investigating Evidence of Prisoner Executions in the Panjshir Valley in September 2022, [url](#), p. 1

⁵³ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 51

⁵⁴ UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Statement of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 26 October 2022, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁵ Hasht-e Subh, Taliban Arrests and Severely Tortures 30 Civilians in Panjshir, 29 August 2022, [url](#); Kabul Now, Taliban Arrest and Torture Locals after Infighting in Panjshir, 21 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁶ BBC News, Afghanistan: In a quiet valley the Taliban face armed resistance, 27 July 2022, [url](#); Hasht-e Subh, Sources report that the Taliban group arrested another Panjshiri resident in Kabul and then shot him dead, 13 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁷ Kabul Now, Villagers Forces To Leave Properties Under Crackdown in Panjshir, 26 October 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁸ Hasht-e Subh, Taliban Bans Smartphones Use, An Attempt to Covering Crimes, 24 October 2022, [url](#); Yalda Hakim [Twitter], posted on: 29 August 2022, [url](#)

⁵⁹ Chatham House, Afghanistan: One year of Taliban rule, 15 August 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁰ RFE/RL/Gandhara, Senior Clerics Caught In The Crossfire Of The Taliban's Intensifying War With IS-K, 24 August 2022, [url](#)

⁶¹ HRW, Afghanistan: Taliban Execute, ‘Disappear’ Alleged Militants, 7 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶² UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 57



Major incidents such as suicide attacks and other bombings

During the reference period the number of attacks claimed by ISKP was lower in contrast to preceding months. Through their Telegram channels ISKP claimed between 7–12 attacks per month in Afghanistan during July–September 2022, in contrast to April 2022 when the group claimed over 25 attacks.⁶³ Bombings claimed by ISKP as well as unclaimed bombings have been carried out against Taliban targets during the reference period.⁶⁴ Other unclaimed bombings have been carried out outside three Sunni mosques⁶⁵ resulting in several deaths and injuries.⁶⁶ In one mosque attack a prominent pro-Taliban cleric was targeted.⁶⁷ Two other pro-Taliban clerics were killed in other attacks claimed by or attributed to ISKP.⁶⁸

A string of ISKP attacks targeting the Shia Hazara group occurred in Kabul City during three consecutive days (5–7 August 2022) before the Ashura' commemoration on 8 August 2022.⁶⁹ These attacks included a bombing targeting a Shia religious mourning ceremony⁷⁰ in Sar-e-Kariz, PD6, Kabul City.⁷¹ 8 people were reportedly killed and 18 injured.⁷² Another blast occurred in a busy shopping street⁷³ in Pol-e-Sukhta (a Shia dominated area⁷⁴) in PD6, Kabul City.⁷⁵ Reports on the death toll varied between 2⁷⁶, 3⁷⁷ and 8⁷⁸, as well as reports on the

⁶³ BBC Monitoring, IS claims three attacks in Afghanistan in one day, 12 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁴ BBC Monitoring, IS claims three attacks in Afghanistan in one day, 12 October 2022, [url](#); TOLONews, Blast Occurs at Mosque Near Interior Ministry, 5 October 2022, [url](#); Ariana News, Blast hits a mosque in vicinity of interior ministry, killing 4, 6 October 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁵ TOLONews, Blast Occurs Near Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Mosque in Kabul, 23 September 2022, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Mosque blast kills at least 18 in Afghanistan, 2 September 2022, [url](#); TOLONews, 21 Killed, 33 Wounded in Kabul Mosque Blast, 18 August 2022, [url](#); RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, Police Say 21 killed In Kabul Mosque Blast, [url](#)

⁶⁶ TOLONews, 21 Killed, 33 Wounded in Kabul Mosque Blast, 18 August 2022, [url](#); RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, Police Say 21 killed In Kabul Mosque Blast, [url](#); TOLONews, Blast Near Kabul Mosque Sparks Intl, Domestic Reactions, 23 September 2022, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Bomb goes off as worshippers exit Kabul mosque, kills at least 7, 23 September 2022, [url](#); BBC News, Mujib Rahman Ansari: Taliban cleric killed in Herat mosque blast, 2 September 2022, [url](#); TOLONews, Burial held in Herat for Mawlawi Ansari, 17 Other Victims of a Mosque Attack, 3 September 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁷ RFE/RL/Gandhara, Senior Clerics Caught In The Crossfire Of The Taliban's Intensifying War With IS-K, 24 August 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁸ RFE/RL/Gandhara, Senior Clerics Caught In The Crossfire Of The Taliban's Intensifying War With IS-K, 24 August 2022, [url](#); TOLONews, Shaikh Rahimullah Haqqani's Funeral Held in Jalalabad, 12 August 2022, [url](#); Independent (The), Isis says it will release video of top Taliban cleric's assassination, 1 September 2022, [url](#); Khaama Press, Influential Salafist Scholar Killed in the Afghan Capital, 14 July 2022, [url](#)

⁶⁹ UN Security Council, Situation of in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 14 September 2022, [url](#), para. 16; Business Standard, Over 120 killed, wounded in recent days in Afghanistan: United, 8 August 2022, [url](#); ANI

⁷⁰ VOA, Islamic State Bombing Kills 8 Afghan Shiite Mourners in Kabul, 5 August 2022, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, A/HRC/51/6, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 16

⁷¹ TOLONews, 3 People Die in Blast on Second Day of Attacks in Kabul, 6 August 2022, [url](#); AA, 3 dead, 7 injured in Kabul blast, 6 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷² TOLONews, 3 People Die in Blast on Second Day of Attacks in Kabul, 6 August 2022, [url](#); APW, Weekly Briefing Aug 01 – Aug 07, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷³ Reuters, Bomb blast in Kabul kills eight, injures more than 20, 6 August 2022, [url](#); RFE/RL/Gandhara, New Blast Shakes Kabul, Killing At Least Two and Injuring 22, 6 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁴ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, A/HRC/51/6, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 16; AA, 3 dead, 7 injured in Kabul blast, 6 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁵ TOLONews, 3 People Die in Blast on Second Day of Attacks in Kabul, 6 August 2022, [url](#); AA, 3 dead, 7 injured in Kabul blast, 6 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁶ APW, Weekly Briefing August 01 – Aug 07, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁷ TOLONews, 3 People Die in Blast on Second Day of Attacks in Kabul, 6 August 2022, [url](#)

⁷⁸ Reuters, Bomb blast in Kabul kills eight, injures more than 20, 6 August 2022, [url](#)



number of injured which ranged from 7 to 30.⁷⁹ Last, a bombing targeted a minibus in Chindawol (another Shia dominated area) in Kabul City. No casualties were reported.⁸⁰

Unclaimed bombings in August and September 2022 have been reported in the Shia dominated area⁸¹ Dasht-e-Barchi in Kabul City.⁸² On 30 September 2022, a suicide bombing was carried out against the Kaaj educational center.⁸³ Most victims were reported to be teenage girls.⁸⁴ On 3 October 2022, UNAMA reported that at least 53 people had been killed and over 110 injured⁸⁵ while earlier estimates by other sources ranged between 19 casualties, as reported by Taliban officials, and 100 casualties, as reported by local media.⁸⁶ The attack received attention, inter alia on Twitter under the hashtag #StopHazaraGenocide which had been used in more than 10 million posts as of mid-October 2022.⁸⁷

In September 2022, both the UN Special Rapporteur and Human Rights Watch commented on the situation of Hazaras.⁸⁸ The UN Special Rapporteur stated that the recent years' attacks on Hazaras and non-Muslim Afghans, often claimed by ISKP, appeared to be 'systematic in nature and reflect elements of an organisational policy, thus bearing hallmarks of international crimes including crimes against humanity'.⁸⁹ He also noted reports of an increase in 'inflammatory speech' against Hazaras, both online and in some mosques, including calls for Hazaras to be killed.⁹⁰ Corroborating information on the information on inflammatory speech could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints. Human Rights Watch stated that ISKP had carried out 13 attacks against Hazaras since the Taliban takeover, and that the group could be linked to 3 additional attacks, resulting in the death of at least 700 people.⁹¹ Corroborating information on these figures could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints.

Other attacks included a bombing in a Sikh-owned shop close to a Sikh place of worship in Kabul City which did not cause any casualties on 27 July 2022⁹² and a hand grenade attack against a crowd attending a competition at Kabul International Cricket Stadium on 29 July

⁷⁹ TOLONews, 3 People Die in Blast on Second Day of Attacks in Kabul, 6 August 2022, [url](#); APW, Weekly Briefing Aug 01 – Aug 07, 8 August 2022, [url](#); Reuters, Bomb blast in Kabul kills eight, injures more than 20, 6 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁰ Business Standard, Over 120 killed, wounded in recent days in Afghanistan: United, 8 August 2022, [url](#); ANI, Blast takes place in Kabul's Chandawal neighbourhood, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸¹ BBC News, Kabul blast kills teenager sitting practice exam, 1 October 2022, [url](#)

⁸² Khaama Press, Back to back explosions hit Hazara neighborhood in Kabul, 10 September 2022, [url](#); TOLONews, 4 people wounded in Kabul blast, 13 August 2022, [url](#); APW, Weekly Briefing Aug 13 – 20, 24 August 2022, [url](#)

⁸³ BBC News, Kabul blast kills teenager sitting practice exam, 1 October 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁴ UN News, Afghanistan: UN condemns 'callous' suicide attack on education centre, 30 September 2022, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Suicide attacker kills at least 19 in Kabul school blast, 30 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁵ UNAMA News [Twitter], posted on: 3 October 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁶ AI, Afghanistan: Kabul blasts signal utter failure of Taliban to protect minorities, 30 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁷ Khaama Press, Afghan Twitter Campaign 'StopHazaraGenocide' Reaches 10 Million Tweets, 13 October 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁸ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#); HRW, Afghanistan: ISIS Group Targets Religious Minorities, 6 September 2022, [url](#)

⁸⁹ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 67

⁹⁰ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 65

⁹¹ HRW, Afghanistan: ISIS Group Targets Religious Minorities, 6 September 2022, [url](#)

⁹² Indian Express, Explosion rocks Sikh man's shop near Kabul gurdwara; kin in Delhi call for India's help, 27 July 2022, [url](#); Times of India (The), Kabul Gurdwara Attacked Again, Blast Near Main Gate, 28 July 2022, [url](#)



2022.⁹³ Taliban officials reported on 2 deaths, while other sources reported on 19 deaths.⁹⁴ Moreover, a suicide bombing was carried out outside the Russian Embassy in Kabul City, causing 6 deaths, while different numbers were reported on wounded, starting from 10.⁹⁵

Conflict data

Conflict data indicated a slight decrease of security-related events in July 2022, after peaks in May and June 2022, but thereafter remained on relatively consistent levels. The amount of recorded security-related incidents was however higher after 15 August 2022, than the corresponding period in 2021, in the immediate aftermath of the Taliban takeover.⁹⁶

Conflict data from the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)⁹⁷ is demonstrated below. The following section has a longer reference period than other parts of the document, 15 August 2021–21 October 2022, because conflict-related data as of the Taliban takeover was specifically requested for this query response.

Between 15 August 2021–21 October 2022, ACLED recorded 2 321 events and 4 602 fatalities. 1 046 events were codified as ‘battles’ which caused 2 629 fatalities. 451 events were codified as ‘explosions/remote violence’ which caused 1 131 fatalities. 824 events were codified as ‘violence against civilians’ which caused 842 fatalities.⁹⁸

⁹³ TOLONews, Blast Targets Civilians at Kabul International Cricket Stadium, 29 July 2022, [url](#); Reuters, Two killed in Kabul cricket stadium grenade attack, police say, 30 July 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁴ APW, Weekly Briefing Aug 01 – Aug 07, 8 August 2022, [url](#); Daily Mail Online, T20 cricket match rocked by bomb at stadium in Kabul after grenade explosion kills at least 19, 30 July 2022, [url](#)

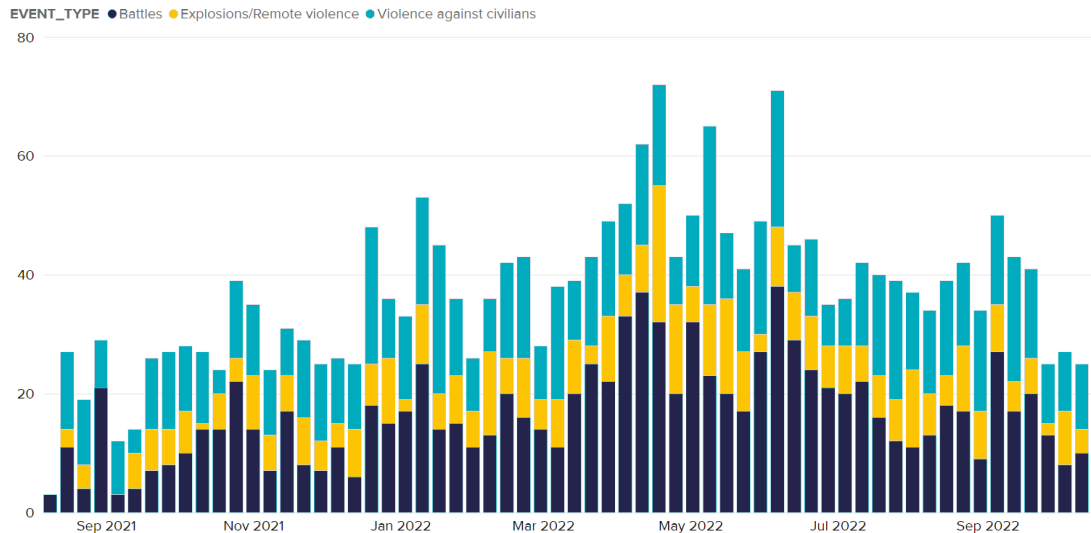
⁹⁵ BBC News, Afghanistan: Russian embassy staff killed in Kabul bombing, 5 September 2022, [url](#); RFE/RL/Radio Azadi, IS Claims Responsibility For Deadly Suicide Attack Outside Russian Embassy In Kabul, 5 September 2022, [url](#)

⁹⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#); EUAA analysis based on UCDP data. UCDP, data covering 16 August 2021 to 22 October 2022 provided by courtesy of UCDP in an email, 24 October 2022

⁹⁷ ACLED, The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project - Bringing clarity to crisis, n.d., [url](#). Only events with geo-precision level 1 and 2 have been used and only events recorded as ‘battles’, ‘explosions/remote violence’ and ‘violence against civilians’. Cases with geo-precision level 3 comprise 197 events leading to 426 fatalities. In most provinces, the information does not differ significantly when sorting out events with geo-precision level 3 although it makes a difference in provinces such as Panjsher where for instance 45 events leading to 106 fatalities have not been included in the COI query. For more information on ACLED data and how it is used by the EUAA, see [EUAA COI Report: Afghanistan – Security situation \(August 2022\)](#).

⁹⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#)

Figure 1. Recorded events by type and week 15 August 2021–21 October 2022



Source: EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#)

Most events were recorded in Pansjher Province, which also had the highest number of recorded battles (193) and fatalities (820). The number of recorded battles peaked in May and June 2022 when 26 respectively and 30 such events were recorded, and in July–September the average number of recorded battles was 17 per month. Most fatalities (488) were recorded in this period (May–September 2022). In adjacent provinces, there were also a higher number of battles recorded than in other parts of Afghanistan, including Baghlan (144), Takhar (98), Parwan (67), Kapisa (57), and Badakhshan (63). The fatality numbers were also higher than in other areas: Baghlan (521), Takhar (252), Parwan (174), Kapisa (133), and Badakhshan (197).⁹⁹

Other provinces where over 50 battles were recorded included Nangarhar (76) and Kabul (58). Most battles in Nangarhar took place in October–November 2021 (31 in total), and a total of 352 fatalities were recorded. Kabul Province was the province which experienced most ‘explosions/remote violence’ (102) and ‘violence against civilians’ (123) and had the second highest fatality numbers (687). Violence against civilians was also recorded in over 50 instances in Nangarhar (81), Takhar (69), Baghlan (70), Panjsher (56), and Kandahar (50).¹⁰⁰

Other provinces where at least 100 fatalities were recorded included Kunduz (220), Kandahar (178), Balkh (148), Kunar (114), Sar-e Pul (109), Helmand (101) and Herat (100). In Kunduz and Kandahar, 80 respectively 47 fatalities were recorded in relation to suicide attacks carried out

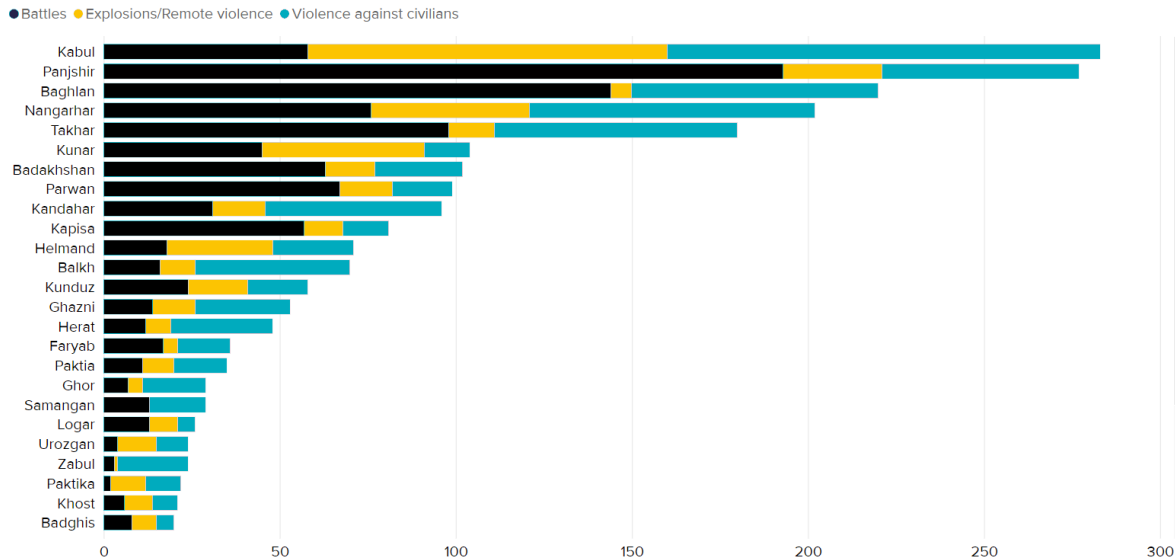
⁹⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#)



against Shia mosques in October 2021. In Sar-e Pul, 94 of the fatalities were recorded in June 2022 when Taliban commander Mawlawi Mehdi defected and fought the Taliban.¹⁰¹

Figure 2. Recorded events by type and province 15 August 2021–21 October 2022



Source: EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#)

Data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) was retrieved for the reference period 16 August 2021–22 October 2022.¹⁰² During this period 504 security incidents were recorded and 1 086 civilian deaths. Most civilian deaths occurred in Kabul Province, but 141 deaths out of the total of 409 were recorded in relation to the suicide attack against Kabul international airport on 26 August 2021. Other events causing high numbers of civilian deaths included an attack against a Sufi place of worship on 29 April 2022, in relation to which 66 civilian deaths were recorded, and the attack against the Kaaj education center on 30 September 2022, in relation to which 52 civilian deaths were recorded. Most incidents were recorded in Nangarhar and Panjsher. In Nangarhar, 50 out of 80 incidents were recorded in 2021, and most of them in the months of October and November.¹⁰³

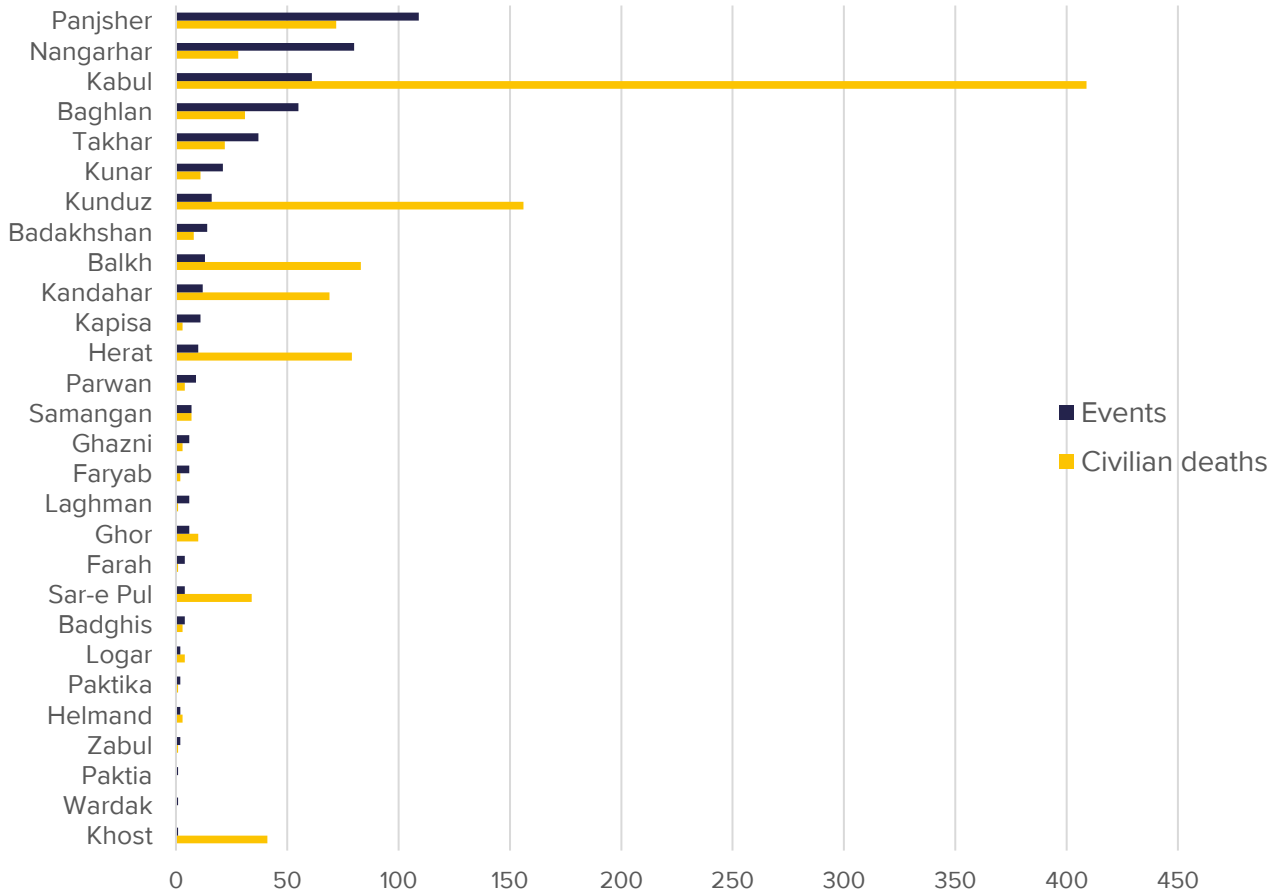
¹⁰¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan, data covering 15 August 2021 to 21 October 2022, as of 28 October 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰² UCDP, Department of Peace and Conflict Research – Uppsala University, Sweden, n.d., [url](#). The UCDP data set distinguishes ‘unclear’ cases from ‘clear’ cases. The former category contains conflicts that likely fulfil the definition of a conflict used by UCDP, but where information on one criterion is missing. In this product only ‘clear’ cases are used. The number of cases marked as ‘unclear’ in the dataset comprise 643 cases, resulting in 391 deaths. For more information on UCDP data and how it is used by the EUAA, see [EUAA COI Report: Afghanistan – Security situation \(August 2022\)](#).

¹⁰³ EUAA analysis based on UCDP data. UCDP, data covering 16 August 2021 to 22 October 2022 provided by courtesy of UCDP in an email, 24 October 2022



Figure 3. Recorded events and civilian deaths by province 16 August 2021–22 October 2022



Source: EUAA analysis based on UCDP data. UCDP, data covering 16 August 2021 to 22 October 2022 provided by courtesy of UCDP in an email, 24 October 2022

4. Economic and humanitarian situation

After the Taliban takeover in 2021, the economic and humanitarian crisis escalated. Aid organisations met a situation where it was difficult for them to operate, as they tried to avoid interaction with Taliban members under UN sanctions, who were at the same time part of the *de facto* state authorities. Despite this situation as well as increased expenses, international aid efforts starved off the situation from escalating into a hunger catastrophe in the first months of 2022. Large parts of the population have however been facing a state of acute malnutrition.¹⁰⁴ World Food Program (WFP) estimated in August 2022 that over half of the population was food insecure and described Afghanistan as ‘one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises’.¹⁰⁵ 24.4 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian

¹⁰⁴ NRC, Afghanistan at a Precipice, 10 August 2022, [url](#), p. 3; Refugees International, Fit for Purpose: Getting Humanitarian Aid Right in Afghanistan One Year after the Taliban Takeover, August 2022, [url](#), pp. 4, 14

¹⁰⁵ WFP, WFP Afghanistan, Country Brief, August 2022, [url](#), p. 1



assistance.¹⁰⁶ In addition to the economic and humanitarian crisis, natural disasters have been exacerbating the situation.¹⁰⁷

In October 2022, the World Bank released a report indicating that the Afghan economy contracted by about 20 % in 2021. The Afghan real GDP was estimated to contract further with 30–35 % in 2022. The report also concluded that the economy was adjusting to a low-level equilibrium, and that living conditions had stabilised and even marginally improved in recent months – although the situation continued to be dire.¹⁰⁸ Meanwhile, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assessed that the contraction of the economy was 14–28 % during the first year of Taliban rule, depending on the used population estimates.¹⁰⁹

In August 2022, Save the Children released a report based on a survey in which 1 690 children in 7 provinces had participated. 88 % of the children were eating less than usual since the Taliban takeover, and 10 % frequently went to bed hungry (two thirds of these children were girls). The report also showed that 5.5 % of girls had been asked to marry, and that 26 % showed signs of depression.¹¹⁰

During summer 2022, flash floods hit several provinces across Afghanistan and caused deaths and severe damages to houses, land, and livestock.¹¹¹ UNOCHA estimated that 256 people had died in such floods in 2022, while 118 deaths had occurred only in August 2022.¹¹² Taliban officials stated that 182 persons had died and that more than 250 had been injured.¹¹³

¹⁰⁶ WFP, WFP Afghanistan, Country Brief, August 2022, [url](#), p. 1; ICRC, Afghanistan: Millions affected by growing humanitarian needs, 15 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰⁷ WFP, WFP Afghanistan, Country Brief, August 2022, [url](#), p. 1; UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 6 September 2022, [url](#), para. 18

¹⁰⁸ World Bank, Afghanistan Development Update, October 2022, [url](#), pp. 2, 10, 17

¹⁰⁹ UNDP, One Year in Review – Afghanistan since August 2021, 5 October 2022, [url](#), p. 11

¹¹⁰ Save the Children, Breaking Point: Children’s Lives One Year under Taliban Rule, 10 August 2022, [url](#), pp. 4, 6

¹¹¹ Ariana News, Flood death toll rises to at least 182 people in past month, 24 August 2022, [url](#); AP, Heavy rains set off flash floods, killing 182 in Afghanistan, 25 August 2022, [url](#); UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Flash Update #5 - Flash Flooding in the Central, Eastern, Western and South-Eastern Regions (24 August 2022), 24 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹² UNOCHA, Afghanistan: Flash Update #5 - Flash Flooding in the Central, Eastern, Western and South-Eastern Regions (24 August 2022), 24 August 2022, [url](#)

¹¹³ Ariana News, Flood death toll rises to at least 182 people in past month, 24 August 2022, [url](#); AP, Heavy rains set off flash floods, killing 182 in Afghanistan, 25 August 2022, [url](#)

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